

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 9

JULY 1962

International Congregational Council Draws World-Wide Delegates To Rotterdam, Holland

More than 550 delegates and observers from Congregational churches in 20 countries and every continent gathered in Rotterdam, Holland, July 4-12, for the ninth assembly of the International Congregational Council.

The Reverend Arnold Slater, minister of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, is the representative of the Southeast Convention to the assembly. Mrs. Slater is an alternate delegate.

The International Congregational Council is a world-wide organization founded in 1891. Membership is made up of denominations that follow a Congregational order of church government, one in which the powers to own property, to call and dismiss ministers, and to decide forms of worship and doctrinal beliefs are exercised within the local congregation. Congregational churches traditionally associate with each other on a voluntary basis in local associations of churches, national denominations and, internationally, in the ICC.

The theme of the ICC assembly is "Essentials of Faith."

The delegates will review the purposes and future of the Council in relation to "significant world-wide changes in the life of the Christian churches," Rev. Ralph F. G. Calder, London, minister and secretary of the ICC, said. These changes consist of "a sharpened apprehension of the unity of church and mission, a greater urgency for the achievements of church union and realization of the need for more adequate communication in a world spiritually empty and hungry," he added.

American spokesmen stated there is "sure to be pointed discussion" over the naming of observers to attend the Vatican Ecumenical Council.

The largest delegations to the Council assembly will come from the Congregational churches of England and the United Church of Christ in the United States of America.

Other important delegations will at-

tend from the Unity of Czech Brethren, Czechoslovakia; the United Church of Canada; the Australian Congregational Church; the Argentine Congregational Church; and the Swedish Mission Covenant Church.

There will be special representatives from Angola, the Congo, Rhodesia, and the Cook Islands in the Pacific. Observers representing the United Protestant Evangelical Church in the Palatinate, Germany, will also attend.

Host to the assembly is the 21,000 member Dutch Remonstrant Brotherhood.

The Rev. Dr. Russell Henry Stafford, Columbia, Connecticut, moderator of the Council, will deliver the keynote address at the opening session. Dr. Stafford is president emeritus of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut.

During the ICC assembly, 100 teenage delegates, 25 of them from the United States, will hold international Congregational youth meetings in Rotterdam.

Congregationalism as a form of church organization had its origins in England in the 16th century. The first Congregationalists were Separatists who left the Church of England in protest against its liturgical practices and what they believed to be a limitation on freedom of individual judgment and conscience in interpreting the Scriptures.

The early Congregationalists were forced to leave England and take refuge in Holland. This group, which fled to Leyden, later emigrated to the New World as the Pilgrims and founded the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620.

The Congregational Christian Churches, which developed in the United States, have been the largest Congregational denomination in the world.

DON'T FORGET!!

July 29-August 4—Camp Ozone, Ozone Tenn., Junior High Camp



MISS DORA C. BRACKIN

Women's Fellowship Has Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship was held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, in conjunction with the sessions of the Southeast Convention.

Miss Dora C. Brackin, president, presided over the meeting at which Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg, moderator of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches, was the guest speaker.

The officers for the new year are: president — Miss Dora C. Brackin; vice-presidents — Mrs. Harry Barr, Mrs. Rufus G. Obrecht, and Mrs. Danny Osborne; secretary and treasurer — Miss Ellen Hull.

The chairmen are: Evangelism and Spiritual Life — Mrs. Clarence W. Baldwin; Stewardship — Mrs. Marrell Rhodes; Christian Education — Mrs. J. Kermit Harris; Missionary Education — Mrs. Arnold Slater; Christian Social Action — Mrs. Ray Webster; and Friendly Service — Mrs. Emmett Bailey.

Turkish TB Association Honors Dr. Cyril H. Haas

The Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Turkish Tuberculosis Association awarded a silver medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the late Dr. Cyril H. Haas, for more than 40 years a medical missionary in Turkey.

The presentation was made on April 13, 1962, by Dr. Suat Seren, Turkish Minister of Health. Howard J. Ashford Jr., American Consul, accepted the award in behalf of the family.

Mrs. Cyril Haas, who lives at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., first learned of the plans to make the award through a letter from the American Consul in early April. She has since received the silver medal and certificate along with a copy of the remarks made by Mr. Ashford in accepting the award.

Mr. Ashford's remarks follow:

"It is a particular honor to be asked to accept this award in behalf of the family of Dr. Cyril Haas. The award is not only a significant mark of the esteem in which Dr. Haas was held in this community over the years, but is as well a tribute to this organization and the Adana community in remembering him and thus paying respects. Dr. Haas' efforts here came long before formal aid programs were known, long before there was as conscious a realization as there is today of the interdependence of each of the nations of the Free World one upon the other. Perhaps Dr. Haas' work here in Adana is best described in his own words. He once said that he had found in Adana an opportunity "for the kind of service we love to give — the care of the needy sick, expressing friendship and goodwill in relieving pain, ministering to weakened bodies and suffering minds, setting forth the value and sacredness of human life." His selflessness and his devotion were of the highest calling—it was a true expression of the spirit of advancement of the brotherhood of man. While Dr. Haas is no longer among us, his spirit certainly penetrates this meeting today. We, the living, can set no finer course than to seek to emulate the life of Dr. Cyril Haas, doctor of medicine and true benefactor of his fellow men."

Dr. Haas and his wife, the former Ruth Dietz, served in Turkey from 1910 to 1951. From 1951 until his death in 1961, Dr. Haas was a volunteer staff physician at Uplands Hospital, Pleasant Hill. Mrs. Haas continues to make her home there.

Sailing Of The First American Missionaries

The day of the ordination and commissioning of the first missionaries who were to go overseas from our country was fiercely cold; yet the Tabernacle Church in Salem, Massachusetts, was crowded. Visitors came from far and near on February 6th, 1812, to see the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions give the solemn charge to Adoniram Judson, Samuel Newell, Samuel Nott Jr., Gordon Hall, and Luther Rice. Students from Andover Seminary and Phillips Academy, Andover, walked to and from Salem (better than fifty miles round trip) to attend the service.

The proceedings were followed with almost breathless interest. Here were talented and trained young men, before whom life opened so promisingly, committing themselves to the hazards of a foreign mission! The eyes of the congregation were often turned on the faces of two young women who were present — one Mr. Judson's bride of a day, and the other the promised wife of Newell. Later, the record of her faith during her short life was to become a mighty incentive to the new missionary movement.

That same evening Messrs. Nott, Hall, and Rice left for Philadelphia supposing they had just time to catch the Harmony before she sailed. The Judsons and the Newells remained in Salem awaiting the Caravan, a brigantine which was getting ready to leave for Calcutta. Delays occurred in the sailings of both vessels, trying the spirits of the eager missionaries, but bringing relief to the Board's officers who were seeing the treasury filling fast. When it was known that the Board not only proposed to send out missionaries but that these young people were embarking, gifts flowed in from all quarters. Within three weeks of the decision to send missionaries in faith, more than \$6000 was collected. By the time the Caravan sailed it was possible to furnish the young people with their full outfits and a year's salary in advance. Considering the disturbed conditions to follow because of the war, and the difficulty in transporting money, this was indeed fortunate. In a similar way, offerings of friends in the neighborhood of Philadelphia fully equipped those who sailed on the Harmony.

On February 19th, the Caravan sailed out of Salem, carrying the Judsons and the Newells; the Harmony, with Mr.

Churches Urged To Help Cuban Refugee Families

Each week 2,000 refugees from Cuba come into Miami, Florida. Already some 90,000 men, women, and children are congregated there, waiting for a place to live.

Because of the help the churches give through Church World Service, someone is on hand to say to these new arrivals, "Bienvenidos Amigos — Welcome Friends."

But out of the 2,000 people entering, agencies have only been able to relocate an average of 500 people each week. Church World Service helps with the initial interviews, gives medical checks and care, supplies food and clothing, and helps find resettlement opportunities. In an effort to judge an appropriate share as a goal for the United Church, the Refugee and Resettlement Office of the Board for World Ministries recently set a target number of 1,500 people to be resettled in the next twelve months.

Churches and groups wishing to help in this project may secure information from Rev. Truman Stehr, United Church Board for World Ministries, Room 1643, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y.

One specific way in which local churches and church members can help is by sponsoring refugee families and encouraging other organizations in their communities to do the same. Our help is needed now!

and Mrs. Nott, and Messrs. Hall and Rice, finally got away from the Delaware Cape on the 24th. Thus was launched, 150 years ago, a far, heroic enterprise. Who can conceive of the scope, character and power of service of the nearly 5000 men and women who have followed these eight? They have gone into 34 areas of the world witnessing to the Good News through many projects in evangelism, education, and healing. For what larger purpose has God our Father led us thus far?

The Christian missionary of one hundred and fifty years ago was convinced that in his faith he had an inestimable treasure. In exalting the worship of the one true God, he labored for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood. His instinctive desire, as is the desire of the Christian in the mission field today, was to share his treasure with the world.

HERE AND THERE

Ministerial Changes

The Rev. William H. Shelton, former pastor of the Daisy-Soddy Parish in Tennessee, has accepted the call to become pastor of the Lowell Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, Alabama.

From June 25 to July 20 Mr. Shelton is attending the Summer School for Ministers at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri.

The Rev. Edward G. Nichols, former pastor of the Federated Church, Demorest, Ga., has accepted the call to serve the Little Creek Congregational Christian Church in Norfolk, Va.

Rev. and Mrs. Nichols now are living at 7974 Shore Drive, Norfolk 18, Va.

* * * *

Mr. Millard Fuller is with the firm of Dees and Fuller, Box 2015, Montgomery, Alabama. The company sells products to groups and organizations for fund raising. One highly successful item has been holly wreaths. Groups interested should write to Mr. Fuller.

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Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, held an "All-Church Picnic" on Saturday, June 16th. On Sunday, June 3rd, seven persons joined the church, bringing the total for the year to 23.

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Mr. Richard Warren, son of Dr. Claude Warren and a member of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, is the author of an article published in the May 30 issue of The Christian Century entitled "Birmingham: Brinkmanship in Race Relations."

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater, delegates to the International Congregational Council, Rotterdam, Holland, left Idlewild Airport on July 2, along with other delegates from this country.

They will attend the ICC from the 4th until the 12th and then will visit Mr. Slater's sister, Mrs. John Wood, in London, as well as other friends and relatives in England.

* * * *

KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Approximately 60 ladies attended the annual retreat of the Ky.-Tenn. Women's Fellowship held on June 13 at the Congregational Christian Church, Crossville, Tenn. The Rev. Harold W. Freer, minister of the church, and the Rev. K. C. Matthew, a young Christian Indian minister, were the guest speakers.

Duncan's Creek Holds Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible School of Duncan's Creek Congregational Church, Buford, Georgia, was conducted the week of June 11, 1962.

We had five enlightening evenings of worship and study. Our theme was "My Bible and I." The lessons were: 1. "The Bible — God's Book"; 2. "God's Rules"; 3. "Brave People"; 4. "Jesus, God's Son"; and 5. "Our Heavenly Home."

Our director was Mrs. Mavis Phillips and the assistant director was Mrs. Grace Puckett. The teachers were: Beginners Class — Mrs. Mary Nell Gower, Mrs. Mae Gower, and Mrs. Lucy Stancel; Primary Class — Mrs. Louise Holman and Mrs. Ann Rary; Junior Class — Mrs. Flora Holman, Mrs. Mattie Puckett, and Mrs. Inzie Gower; Teen-Age Class — Mrs. Jewel Gower and Mrs. Omie Lee Stancel.

The Beginner and Primary Classes had craft projects correlating with the theme. The Junior Class made a gemette picture of the Bible, and the Teen-Age Class made a serving tray of plywood.

Several of our members were thoughtful in preparing refreshments of coolade and cookies for each class.

On Friday the parents were invited to visit and see what Vacation Bible School is like. We had a general picnic afterwards.

We are happy to announce that 53 children were enrolled. Our average attendance, children and adults, was 66 each evening.

Mrs. Rufus G. Obrecht is the president of the group.

* * * *

Congregational Christian Church members attending the World's Fair at Seattle, Washington, can secure economical housing in a home rented by the Washington CC Conference. For information write to Mr. and Mrs. Vee F. Small, 720 14th Ave. East, Seattle 2, Washington.

* * * *

July 15-21 — Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Ga., Junior and Senior High Camp

* * * *

Rev. Robert A. Knowles, Minister of Christian Education for the Southern Convention, has resigned to become Associate Minister of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, Mass.



Central Church Holds Day Planning Retreat

A highly successful "Planning Retreat" was held by Central Church, Atlanta, on Saturday, June 2.

Eighty-three members and friends of the church, including 48 adults and 35 children, participated in the retreat which was held from 9:30 a. m. until 8 p. m. at Camp Highland near Atlanta.

During the day a total of ten different discussion groups on phases of the work of the church were held and the recommendations have been passed on to the proper boards and committees of the church.

Ambrose Church Notes Progress And Growth

Several events have taken place during the past few months of which the members of the Ambrose Christian Church are very proud.

We had an Easter Sunrise Service in which all churches in and around Ambrose took part.

Two weeks later we held our revival which ran for a week, and during which we gained five new members, one by letter and four on confession of faith.

We have painted our church inside, enclosed our Sunday School rooms, and installed an electric stove and a double sink in our kitchen so we are able to serve refreshments to all.

Our Sunday School has grown in the last month to double its former size. Our morning and evening services have grown, too, under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. R. N. Overstreet of Baxley.

We have just closed our very fine Vacation Bible School.

Mrs. Oswald Vickers

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Promotion

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Superintendent's Corner

The last week in June I attended the meeting of the Committee on the Town and Country Church of the United Church. This meeting brought together a group of approximately 20 pastors, professors, lay persons and conference executives to study the program of the United Church in respect to the large number of Town and Country churches in our fellowship.

If one fact comes out of these meetings, it is that the rural picture in the United States is changing rapidly. The flow of population is away from the farms. More and more people who live in rural areas must be classified as non-farm or agricultural.

Small towns that once were centers for farming areas are losing population to urban and suburban centers.

All of this means that the churches in town and country must be alert to what is taking place about them. They must seek to determine how they may best serve the communities and the areas in which they are located. They must take a hard look at the future to discover whether it is likely they will be in existence ten or twenty years from now.

Local churches can find help in the effort to understand themselves and their communities through the use of the "Six Self-Study Guides for Use By Town and Country Churches of the United Church."

The cost of the set of six is \$1.00. These can be ordered from Rev. Serge F. Hummon, Town and Country Department, Room 1213, 19 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

History Of New Light Congregational Church

In the year of 1901 a young Free Will Baptist minister and his family moved from Randolph County, Georgia, to Doerun. He was the late Rev. J. F. Hadden. Church work was a major part of his life and dear to his heart. He immediately began to seek opportunity for church work. At that time there were no Free Will Baptist churches in the area.

He found a spiritual partner and kindred spirit in the Rev. James Stewart. Brother Stewart was a Congregational field man in the area. They soon became close friends and co-workers. Since the Congregational Church and the Free Will Baptist had so much in common, and their doctrine was almost identical, Brother Hadden decided to affiliate with the Congregational Church.

He and Brother Stewart held a highly successful revival in a tent at Pritchett. Many were converted and joined the church which was organized in 1902. The new members were baptized in a creek. The charter members of the church were Rev. J. F. Hadden and wife, Green Page and wife, Henry Tyson and wife, and George Gray.

The church met and held services in a cotton house till time to pick cotton. They then moved to Jenkins' saw mill and held services and Sunday School till they finally moved to the present location. Finally Brother Hadden, Brother Green Page and Brother Henry Tyson went to Flint in Mitchell County and purchased land for the church. A brush arbor was built and services were held under it for more than a year. Many more members were added to the church under the arbor. During all the time services were held under the arbor, not a single service was rained out, day or night. The weather never interfered.

Then it was decided to build a house of worship. It was inspiring to see people donate their money, time, timber and other materials to build. Corbett and Taylor sawed the lumber. People hauled the lumber to the church grounds, hand dressed it and built the church building. The ladies would bring lunch to the men who worked. Mrs. Hadden sometimes would bring lunch, carrying a laundry tub full at a time. The building was completed and the great day of dedication and occupation arrived. It was a beautiful sight to see the congregation march from the old arbor to the new church, singing hymns and carrying in their hands things from the arbor that were to be used in the new church. Brother Hadden's baby girl,



**CORNERSTONE LAYING
AT NEW LIGHT CHURCH**

Seated are the three oldest members of the church. Left to right: T. R. Bryant, "Uncle Dolphus", 94 years old; Mrs. A. H. Hathcock Sr., "Aunt Lizzie", 82 years old; Mrs. J. F. Hadden, wife of the late Rev. J. F. Hadden, who organized the church in 1902. Mrs. Hadden is 85 years old.

Sally, and L. J. Moore led the procession carrying the church and national flags. The late Rev. Spillars, pastor of the church at Albany, preached the dedication sermon.

The history of the church from then on had its bright and dark days. In due time the building was remodeled and enlarged and wired for electric lights. As the years went by the building was partially wrecked by a storm. It was condemned as being too dangerous to hold services in. The people seemed to lose heart. Many moved away, some died, and some joined other churches. The church became inactive until a few years ago when Rev. W. C. Carpenter was asked to take over and see if it could be revived.

Under his leadership the church took on new life, engaged in a building program and on Sunday, November 16, 1961, the cornerstone was placed in the new church building of the New Light Congregational Christian Church.

The following ministers have served the church as pastor: J. F. Hadden D. J. Pearson, W. A. Gore, T. L. Richter, Mark Hargraves, C. N. Kelly, R. H. Abbott, W. A. Hland, L. S. Chewing, R. N. Overtrees, S. M. Penn, T. J. Dean, and W. C. Carpenter.

Mrs. Hadden is still living and was present for the service in November

The Church Builders Club Of The Southeast Convention

Church Builders Club Month

July has been designated CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB MONTH within the Southeast Convention.

Every church in the convention is urged to join the Church Builders Club during this month.

In order to reach its members it is suggested that each church hold a CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB SUNDAY sometime during the month and that it appoint a Church Builders Club Membership Committee or Chairman to solicit memberships from its people.

The Goal of the Church Builders Club is \$5,000. This means a minimum of one thousand memberships at \$5.00 per member must be secured. The full cooperation of every church, every minister and every church member is needed if the goal is to be met.

At its annual meeting held April 29 at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Alabama, the Church Builders Club selected the Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, Alabama, to be its current project.

This young church is in the midst of relocating and completing the first unit of its building program. It needs the help of the Church Builders Club.

Each church should send the list of its members who join the Church Builders Club along with a check to cover the dues collected (made payable to: Treasurer, Church Builders Club) to the Southeast Convention Office.

Organizations and groups in the churches as well as individuals can join the Church Builders Club.



FRED D. POWELL

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The Church Builders Club

The Church Builders Club began as an idea among the churches of the South Georgia Association and leaders who were greatly concerned with the need for a more effective program of church extension among our Congregational Christian Churches in this area.

It was organized August 30, 1953, as The Gideon Club of Church Builders. The primary leader in the movement was Rev. W. C. Carpenter, who served the club for several years as secretary and membership treasurer.

The following year the club changed its name to the Church Builders Club because of confusion over the name Gideon.

The purpose of the club is "to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing the task of building His church within the fellowship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches."

The plan of the club is relatively simple. "Membership in this club is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute \$5.00 or more for each new church project approved by the governing body or membership of the Club . . . The maximum number of projects to be approved for one calendar year shall be two (2)."

In consultation with the Committee on Survey and Church Aid of the Southeast Convention, the Club chooses its projects. Members are then requested to contribute \$5.00 to the Club for each project and no more than two projects can be designated per year.

The constitution provides that no project shall receive more than \$5000. The club retains 15% of the monies raised to meet the costs of promotion and administration.

Since the club came into being the Congregational Christian Church of Douglas, Georgia, the First Congregational Christian Church, Tifton, Ga., and the Brookmeade United Church, Nashville, Tenn., have been assisted.

The club is governed by its officers, its nine elected trustees and by its membership assembled in annual meeting. The annual meeting is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention.

The Church Builders Club idea now is widely used by other state conferences in our fellowship and by other denominations.

Application for Membership

IN

The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Dues . . . \$5.00 payable with this application.

Russell Woods New Project Church Builders Club

The Russell Woods Church

On September 4 1957, a group of approximately 25 lay persons interested in starting a new church of our fellowship in Phenix City, Alabama, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Foster.

Out of this meeting there came the resolution to begin construction of a building that could be used for worship and Sunday School. Within a week's time, land had been secured in the Russell Woods Subdivision and the ground was broken for the new building.

Construction progressed rapidly, and by October 5 of that year the new structure could be used.

By this time, with Rev. J. N. Rumph, a member of the group, serving as acting pastor, the young church could count forty-three members on its roll. Delegates were sent to the annual meeting of the East Alabama Association on October 16-17, seeking membership in the association and recognition as a Congregational Christian Church.

The wishes of the group received favorable action by the association. On October 27 the first formal service of worship was held in the new building, and on November 10 Dedication Services were held with more than 100



members and friends present. By this time the membership had grown to 76.

In October of 1958 Rev. Herbert Long was called as the first full-time minister of the church. Under his leadership plans for expansion on the original site were developed. Then there came the news that the new highway probably would run through the property. This, of course, created problems for the church.

Mr. Long resigned as minister of the church in June of 1960 in order to continue his ministerial education at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

The church next called Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn as minister and he assumed his duties as pastor in November of that year.

Under his leadership the church has taken significant steps of progress. He has led the church in its program of relocation and new building. New life is felt in the various organizations of the church.

Last fall the church secured property not far from the original location and started its new building. As the picture indicates, it is well on the way to completion. The church now has a membership of almost 100 and looks to steady growth in its future home.

The New Building

The Russell Woods Church is located on the top of a hill on 23rd Court in the Russell Woods Sub-Division in Phenix City.

The new building is on a lot 300 by 135 feet and the church has a two-year option on an additional lot 135 by 100 feet.

Under construction is the educational unit. Plans call for the future construction of the church auditorium and additional facilities.

The educational unit contains eight Sunday School Rooms (six of which are 12 by 12 feet and two are 12 by 24 feet), a fellowship hall 42 by 36 feet, a kitchen 16 by 12 feet, two rest rooms and a janitor's closet.

The fellowship hall will be used for the Sunday Services of Worship until the additional facilities are completed.

As can be seen from the picture, the church is of interesting design with brick and block walls. It is estimated that the value of this unit will be \$40,000 — but because of contributed labor the actual cost will be around \$25,000.

Russell Woods is an exciting and worthy project of the Church Builders Club.



REV. WARREN A. BLANKENHORN